

REMARKS

Applicants' would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration he has given to this case.

Claims 1-9 and 15-17 are pending, claims 10-14 and 25-27 are withdrawn, claims 19-24 are canceled. No new matter has been added.

Applicants' were sent a Notice of Non-Compliant amendment date mailed September 23, 2004 to correct status identifiers in a Preliminary Amendment filed on September 8, 2004 in conjunction with an RCE. On October 25, 2004 Applicants' submitted claims with new status identifiers and remarks to address the Non-Compliant amendment notification.

An Office Action date mailed December 2, 2004 stated that the Applicants' submission filed on October 27, 2004, which included a set of claims, was entered. Applicants' believe that these claims constitute the "immediate prior version of the claims" for purposes of this reply.

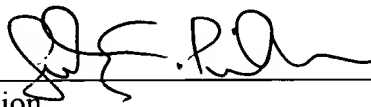
Applicants' received a Notice of Non-Compliant amendment date mailed December 7, 2005 to correct claims 16 and 27 in the submission filed on October 27, 2004 because "Claims 16 and 27 do not reflect the amendments of September 9, 2003." Accordingly, the corrected section supplied with this reply reflect changes to the immediate prior version of the claims and that are consistent with claims 16, and 27 of September 9, 2003.

Applicants' have made a *bona fide* attempt to correct the claims in this paper, comply with the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, and advance prosecution of the case. Claims 16, and 27 were amended to correct errors pointed out in the Notice of Non-Compliance; claim 1 was amended to reflect a change from Claim 1 of the September 9, 2003 claims; claims 7, 10, 13, and 25 were amended to clarify the present claims and correct omissions. Support for the amendment to claim 7 can be found in Applicants' specification page 7, lines 5-10. No new matter was added.

Applicants' respectfully request that the Examiner make any necessary changes to the claims under 37 CFR §1.121(g) which permits the Office to make amendments to the specification, including the claims, by examiner's amendments without paragraph/section/claim replacement in the interest of expediting prosecution and reducing cycle time.

In view of the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested. Although Applicants' believes no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. **501-908** for any fees that may be due in connection with this response. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding these remarks and amendments, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone conference or a personal interview with the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.E. Pillion', written over a horizontal line.

John E. Pillion
Registration No. 52,122

Dated: January 6, 2006